

the committee (PRM) that shall be deemed to have the same rights, duties, and responsibilities as members of the staff of the Committee on Foreign Relations where specifically provided for in these rules.

(c) Restrictions.—

(1) The staff shall regard its relationship to the committee as a privileged one, in the nature of the relationship of a lawyer to a client. In order to protect this relationship and the mutual confidence which must prevail if the committee-staff relationship is to be a satisfactory and fruitful one, the following criteria shall apply, unless staff has consulted with and obtained, as appropriate, the approval of the Senate Ethics Committee and advance permission from the staff director (or the minority staff director in the case of minority staff):

(A) members of the staff shall not be identified with any special interest group in the field of foreign relations or allow their names to be used by any such group; and

(B) members of the staff shall not accept public speaking engagements or write for publication in the field of foreign relations.

(2) The staff shall not discuss their private conversations with members of the committee without specific advance permission from the Senator or Senators concerned.

(3) The staff shall not discuss with anyone the proceedings of the committee in closed session or reveal information conveyed or discussed in such a session unless that person would have been permitted to attend the session itself or is a member or staff of a relevant committee or executive branch agency and possesses an appropriate security clearance, or unless such communication is specifically authorized by the staff director or minority staff director. Unauthorized disclosure of information from a closed session or of classified information shall be cause for immediate dismissal and may, in certain cases, be grounds for criminal prosecution.

RULE 15—STATUS AND AMENDMENT OF RULES

(a) Status.—In addition to the foregoing, the Committee on Foreign Relations is governed by the Standing Rules of the Senate, which shall take precedence in the event of a clear inconsistency. In addition, the jurisdiction and responsibilities of the committee with respect to certain matters, as well as the timing and procedure for their consideration in committee, may be governed by statute.

(b) Amendment.—These rules may be modified, amended, or repealed by a majority of the committee, provided that a notice in writing (including by electronic mail) of the proposed change has been given to each member at least 72 hours prior to the meeting at which action thereon is to be taken. However, rules of the committee which are based upon Senate rules may not be superseded by committee vote alone.

TRIBUTE TO JOE HACK

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, every Senator depends on their staff to provide them with information and advice on the issues. Every Senator knows the importance of having good staff who can respond to the questions and concerns their constituents may have in dealing with the Federal bureaucracy. And every Senator believes that their staff members are the most prepared, the most conscientious, and the most caring people in the U.S. Senate.

I know that my staff is. I have been fortunate with the people who have joined my team to work for the great State of Nebraska. I have been ex-

tremely fortunate that Joe Hack has been a member of Team Fischer since my very first day as a U.S. Senator.

Joe officially joined my team as my communications director on that first day. He was not new to the Senate; he had first arrived here as an 18-year-old intern. On our first day in 2013, he immediately got to work with his new boss in getting out press releases, reaching out to State and national media, and helping me continue my practice of writing a weekly column for media back home.

Joe never missed a beat. He helped guide me through the traditions and inner workings of the Senate and through the tunnels of the Russell Building.

After 2 years, Joe Hack became my chief of staff, the youngest chief in the Senate at that time. Joe set the tone I wanted for my office: Be professional, take your job seriously, be honest, get along with your colleagues, always respond to constituents, gather all the information we need on an issue and then get more, and work hard. Joe's closing to every email and every staff meeting was always, "Work harder." And he set the example for all of these.

Joe was involved in every major piece of legislation we have accomplished, from passing the first-ever paid family leave law to the FAST Act, our Internet of Things work, broadband, infrastructure, and agriculture issues. He guided the Omaha VA clinic from inception to completion, and he will see the Lincoln VA clinic open and the Offutt Air Force Base runway completely rebuilt. He knew the importance of securing funding for Nebraska highway and water projects and for the continued growth of our university system. He was part of every success.

Joe knows Nebraska, and Nebraskans know Joe. He knew instinctively that the people of our State are why we do this work. We represent them. Joe has attended statehood dinners in our Capitol Rotunda, driven a combine in Grand Island, had meals at Ole's Big Game Bar, and gone to Husker tailgates and games. He loves browsing at Cabela's and a good meal at Rosita's. He knows which Nebraska hotels have the best gym, where every Runza drive-thru is located in the State, and where to find the best steaks. He has shared BBQ at our ranch with family, neighbors and the U.S. Secretary of Ag. He is also addicted to Colby Ridge popcorn balls. He buys them in bulk, and he doesn't share.

He has attended countless Nebraska breakfasts and constituent meetings in Washington. He has worked hard for the people of Nebraska.

Joe has traveled the vastness of our State, understanding its diversity and standing in awe while viewing our skies, sunrises and sunsets, our clouds, and the majesty of our night stars. He fell in love with "The Good Life". A New Jersey guy became a Nebraskan.

Joe has been by my side since my very first day in the Senate, and now,

he is moving on to new opportunities. He has been a mentor to many, my trusted policy and political adviser, and a leader whose admonition to "work harder" became our office mantra. Joe has smoothed the waters and ruffled feathers.

Joe Hack is a friend. He is family. I wish him only the best as he meets new challenges and faces new adventures in his life.

Thank you, Joe.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO CELEA POITRA AND GAHGE WHITEMANRUNSHIM

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, this week, I have the honor of recognizing Celea Poitra and Gahge Whitemanrunshim of Big Horn County for courageously stepping up to help others in the face of danger. They exhibit strong Montana values, and their dedication to helping others is admirable.

Celea and Gahge were in their grandmother's pickup truck heading to a dental appointment on Saturday, February 27, 2021, when they witnessed devastating 30-vehicle pileup on the Yellowstone River Bridge outside Billings, MT. Dozens of vehicles crashed into each other on the icy interstate highway bridge. After their truck came to a stop, Celea and Gahge saw a vehicle with a mother and two kids hanging partially off the guardrail of the bridge. Celea and Gahge did not hesitate to step in and help. However, the impact from other vehicles hitting the pile-up knocked both of them off of the bridge, and they fell to the ground about 60 feet below.

They sustained serious injuries when they fell and are recovering in Billings' hospital. Celea was treated for a broken back, lacerated kidney, and other injuries. She was in an intensive care unit and is expected to need multiple surgeries. Gahge suffered a fractured neck, punctured lung, and other injuries. Their grandmother and guardian, Joan, stated that it is very much in her children's nature to go out of their way to help someone.

It is my distinct honor to recognize Celea and Gahge for demonstrating such bravery to help others in need and I pray for their swift recovery. Their selflessness serves as an inspiration to all Montanans. •

REMEMBERING MARLENE BANE

• Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, today I rise to recognize the life of Ms. Marlene Bane.

Marlene answered the highest calling of dedication to her country, her State, and her local community. Along with her husband, Assemblyman Tom Bane, she carved out a unique niche in State government through a blend of intelligence, soft-spoken charm, organization, and, most of all, dear friends and

relatives. She spent a lifetime engaged in political consulting and nonprofit projects such as lupus research and the Jewish Home for the Aging.

Marlene worked tirelessly to improve California and serve those most in need. She was also well known and loved throughout L.A.'s Jewish community for her civic activism and support for Israel.

Marlene was renowned for mentoring an amazing number of our political leaders on how to serve constituents with honor and commitment. Up to the last week of her life, she threw herself into the cause of supporting candidates. She believed in the commandment of Tikkun Olam, that she must leave the world better than she found it. It is undeniable that she left those who knew her better off for having known her.●

REMEMBERING ANTONIO GONZALEZ

● Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I would like to include in the RECORD the following obituary for Mr. Antonio Gonzalez, written by his children.

The material follows:

Beloved Antonio Gonzalez made his transition the night of December 30, 2020. Born in Calera in the state of Zacatecas, Mexico on March 30, 1964, he was the eldest of four children born to Antonio Gonzalez and Antonia Del Villar. The Gonzalez family spent their early years living with Antonio's maternal grandparents in a small town in Calera. Antonio shared fond memories of times spent on his grandparent's abundant ranch. He described what seemed to him an endless landscape of rolling hills, trees, livestock and horses (his favorite).

Hard times fell on the young family around the time Antonio turned eight. A sudden regime change resulted in his dad losing his job, forcing them to set their sights "north" in search for work and a better life. Their trek north ended in what was (at the time) a small dusty town just south of the California border. It was there, in Tecate, BC where he and his three siblings, Antonio (Tony Chico), Margarita and Maria de la Luz were raised and attended school. But, with a lack of good paying jobs, times remained tough in Tecate. Antonio recalled working odd-end jobs throughout his childhood and adolescence; a shoe shiner, sweeper—anything to help ensure that there was food on the table.

As a young adult, Antonio set his sights on completing the journey north—to the U.S. In 1971, shortly after marrying Florentina "Nina" Herrera, he made his way to Los Angeles. They settled in the San Fernando Valley—a sleepy suburb of LA at the height of rock and roll, disco, and bell bottoms.

Antonio worked just about anywhere where hard work was needed—maintenance work at a convalescent hospital, landscaping, you name it. But his fate would change when he landed a job at a large construction company. I'm not sure what it was about "construction" that he loved. Perhaps it was the job stability or the early start to the day where he could greet the sunrise on his drive into downtown. Or maybe it was the art of building—the satisfaction of erecting a structure where only a plot of land existed—a tangible outcome only accomplished by hard work and sweat. Over the years, he had become somewhat of an infrastructure historian, recalling with such clarity the

buildings he helped build and rehabilitate in the San Fernando Valley, Downtown LA, Santa Monica, and Malibu.

He dedicated most of his life to erecting buildings and homes, whether for work or building homes for his family both in the San Fernando Valley and in Tecate, BC. Antonio built his family home, simple and unpretentious yet on a solid foundation with strong bones. In fact, as time would prove, there's nowhere else his family would prefer to be in an earthquake but under the protection of those strong beams hammered together with pride and affection. Even in his retirement years, Antonio never stopped building.

Antonio was a great provider for his family. Through his hard work and dedication, he showed his children that the true American dream could be achieved—of buying a home, raising a family and ensuring a better future for the next generation.

He is survived by his wife, "Nina", son David, daughter Maria Ines and son-in-law Jose, daughter Sandra and son-in-law James, son Cristian and grandchildren Javier, Sienna and Julian. Siblings Antonio, Margarita and Maria de la Luz and many loving cousins, nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his father Antonio Gonzalez and mother, Antonia Gonzalez Del Villar.●

REMEMBERING JOE "PINOY" LOZANO

● Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I rise to recognize the life of Mr. Joe Lozano.

Joe "Pinoy" Lozano was born on December 26, 1934, in Pacoima, CA, as one of 10 children. Joe had every job you can imagine. He shined shoes and worked in the fields as a young boy. He joined the U.S. Marine Corp in 1954 and served during the Korean war as an infantryman.

After the service, he married the love of his life, Virginia. They were married for 60 years and had 6 children, 21 grandchildren, 26 great-grandchildren, and 1 great-great-grandchild.

Joe was a community-oriented person. After his family, his community came first. He painted over graffiti, he helped beautify the streets, and he even mowed the grass on the center divider of his street when the city was too busy to do it.

Joe worked as a prop maker for the studios for many years. He had tons of stories, and he loved his job. He retired, went back to work, and only stopped again to care for his wife when she became ill.

Since 2004, Joe worked with the annual San Fernando Valley Veterans Day Parade organizing committee so that Veterans could be honored on Veterans Day.

He will be missed by many.●

RECOGNIZING VERMONT MEALS ON WHEELS

● Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to recognize the extraordinary work of Vermont's Meals on Wheels Programs.

Each March, we celebrate March for Meals to draw attention to the incredible work of Meals on Wheel through-

out the country, including in my home State of Vermont. All across our State, hundreds of volunteers regularly deliver freshly cooked, nutritious meals to thousands of older people in their homes, many of whom otherwise might not have enough to eat. These volunteers play a critically important role in helping ensure that older Vermonters have access to adequate nutrition. In and of itself, that is no small matter.

In a typical year, Meals on Wheels volunteers do so much more than delivering meals. These volunteers provide critical social interaction for the people they visit, which goes a long way to combat the effects of isolation that many Vermonters face, especially in rural areas. Without this social interaction, seniors are more likely to have feelings of loneliness and depression, which puts them at higher risk for dementia, chronic disease, falls, and hospitalization. Their regular visits serve another purpose as well. The volunteers know each person they visit and recognize immediately if something does not seem right. It is no exaggeration to say that volunteers have literally saved Vermonters' lives by following up when no one answers the door, taking the time to discover that someone had fallen and been injured.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, volunteers—both new and existing—stepped up to deliver over 1 million meals to over 7,500 Vermonters. This represents a 30-percent increase in the number of meals and almost a 20-percent increase in the number of people receiving meals through this vital Federal program. At a time when so many Vermonters struggled with the dual hardship of loneliness and hunger cause by the COVID-19 pandemic, Meals on Wheels served as a critical lifeline.

In addition to the many Meals on Wheels volunteers throughout Vermont, I also want to recognize and thank the caring and dedicated professionals who run Vermont's Meals on Wheel Programs. From the chefs who prepare the nutritious meals with skill and care, to the program staff who ensure that everything runs smoothly, these Vermonters are the backbone of what makes Meals on Wheels the success that it is. In March, when so much of our State shut down due to the pandemic, these dedicated people immediately pivoted to expand Meals on Wheels and ensure that any older Vermonter who wanted a meal could get one. This was particularly important for all those who had previously relied on congregate meal programs, which were unsafe during the pandemic.

Together, every single Meals on Wheels volunteer and staff person forms an indispensable link in our social safety net and has my sincere appreciation for their remarkable work. As more and more Vermonters are now vaccinated and the State begins a careful reopening, following the science and ensuring the safety of all our people, I look forward to a day when I and